

Contributions.

BEAUTY OF TRUTH.

Read before Elkhart County Union Meeting at Elkhart, Ind., July 24, 1897, by Rosa Blough.

Truth is beautiful ; strong to bless, strong to save. He who speaks a falshood is a coward—knave.

Truth is the perception and representation of things as they exist.

Truth divine in its nature and pure in the sight of God, is the foundation of all human excellence. It is the key-stone of all sincere affection and a seal of true discipleship with the good Shepherd, for God is the author of truth, the devil the father of lies.

The smallest dewdrop on the meadow at night has a star sleeping in its bosom and the most insignificant passage of scripture has in it a shining truth.

The psalmist briefly describes a truthful man as "one who walketh uprightly, walketh rightfully, and speaketh the truth."

All classes of people have the privilege to be truthful. No character is complete till it is swayed and elevated by genuine truth, for without we are destitute of the highest beauty and divinest charm and power of our character, and, we urge it as the best and highest duty of everyone, a duty which we owe to ourselves, to our fellow-men, and to God—a duty as full of joy as the heavens are of stars, and when performed, reflecting matchless grace upon our souls, and we do not urge it for fear of hell or hope of heaven, we do not urge from motives or policy, we do urge it for its real worth.

Truth is the corner-stone in character. No sea can drown, no storm can wreck the everlasting truth. Truth will ever be young. Truth is imperishable.

Truth crushed to earth will rise again ; it is beautiful. What is more beautiful? Is the superficial complexion more beautiful than that which comes from the digestion of the divine food? He who possesses truth united with strength of purpose, carries with him a power which is irresistible. He is strong to resist evil, and strong to bear up under misfortune. This is the beauty in truth and the greatest homage we can pay to it is to use it.

A young man or woman in their start in life should impress on their minds strongly that they live in a world of stern realities where no

mere show can with long continuance assert itself as substance in their representation as a member of society. They should take a sacred care to be more than they seem, not to seem more than they are. Whoever in any special act is studious to make an outward show to which no inward substance corresponds, is acting a lie which may help him out of a difficulty perhaps for the occasion, but, like silvered copper, will be found out in due season. Such is the evil of beauty. Plated work will never stand the wear and tear off life like the genuine metal truth.

Nothing is greater, nothing is of more importance, than to find amid the errors and darkness of life, a shining truth.

Truth is the intellectual wealth of the world. The noblest occupation is to search for truth and to see the beauty in truth, for it is divine, it springs from God.

Truth is the mother of joy ; it civilizes, ennobles and purifies men. The grandest ambition that can enter the soul is truth, for Christ has said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Therefore, truth gives men the greatest power for good. Truth is a sword and a shield. It is the sacred light of the soul, for there is no virtue which has not its origin in truth, as on the contrary there is no vice which has not its beginning in a lie.

Truth can stand alone ; therefore it is beautiful. The wise, the honest, the intelligent, are not swayed or governed by numbers or majorities.

In every departure of human endeavor men are seeking for truth and for facts.

The statesman reads the history of the world, gathers statistics of all nations to the end that his country may avoid the mistakes of the past ; he wants truth. So it is with the students of every science. On every hand they look for facts and it is of the utmost importance that they give to the world the facts they find. Truth is the foundation of all knowledge. If it be good for a man to find the truth, then it is good for others to know the truth thus found. Every man should have courage to give this honest thought.

Truth is the standard according to which all things are judged. Then, when we appeal to it, it should be with sincerity of purpose and honesty at heart.

Into God's Holy Palace, our hoped-for future home, and after the un-

speakable beauty of which every human heart should be modeled, nothing can enter which loveth or maketh a lie. Woe to falshood ! It affords no relief to the breast like truth.

Truth is beautiful ! How nice it is when a man has a clear conscience and can look every man in the face, knowing that he owes no false debt, and has said no lie toward anyone. Falshood gives us no comfort, pains him who forges it. There is nothing which all mankind admires so much as simple truth. It exhibits at once a strength of character and integrity of purpose in which all are willing to intrust. Better by losing of a life to save it than by saving of a life to lose it. However, better thou perish than the truth.

Why should truth be known ? Why should we pursue the truth, and why should we express our honest thought? To this I would say for the benefit of mankind, it is divine. He will lessen pain, he will lengthen, ennoble and enrich life. In every direction he will increase his power. Lazy people are never ready with the right article when it is wanted and accordingly they present a false one, as I have read of a school-boy when he was called upon to translate a passage from a Latin author, he read from a translation on the opposite page. What was that but a lie ? The teacher wished to know what he had in his mind and he gave him what he had taken from a piece of paper not the produce of his mind at all. All flimsy, shallow and superficial work is a lie of which a man ought to be ashamed.

Truth alone may not constitute a great man, but it is the most important element of a great character. Here again the beauty in truth reveals itself. It gives security to those who employ him, a confidence to those who serve under him. Truth is the need of every man. Let him that would live well attain to truth and then, and not before, he will cease from sorrow.

Nothing can be more easy than to speak the truth. The unwise, the poor, the ignoble, the youthful, can all equally practice it. Here is another beauty in truth, that not only the wealthy, well-learned people are allowed to speak the truth, but it is free to everyone. Nothing can be more difficult than to speak falsely. The wise, the rich, the great, the aged, have all failed in their attempts. We all know how George Washington